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STRATTON SEEKING TO BAR PROMOTION

Diplomat Accused of Mylai
Suppression Is Cited

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WASHINGTON, July 31 — Representative Samuel S. Stratton, Democrat of upstate New York, is seeking to block the promotion of a career United States diplomat accused of having helped suppress news of the Mylai killings.

The diplomat, James May of California, is currently administrative officer in the United States Embassy at Mogadishu, Somalia. On June 20, the State Department recommended him for promotion from Foreign Service officer grade 3 to grade 2. Grade 2 salaries start at \$28,000.

Mr. May's name was one of 230 sent to the Senate for promotion, appointment or reappointment in the Foreign Service. Many on the new list have been challenged by the American Federation of Government Employees and by other critics as having neither "academic or professional work records similar to those of Foreign Service officers," of being deficient in foreign languages and of being favorites of the State Department's administrative staff.

A Senior Adviser William B. Macomber Jr., Mr. May was provincial Deputy Under Secretary of senior adviser to the Governor State for Management, said of Quangngai province in South this week that William G. Hall, Vietnam at the time of the Director-General of the Foreign Mylai incident on March 16, Service, had investigated Mr. 1968. The hamlet of Mylai is May's case and had concluded in that province. that there was no proof of the

On July 15, 1970, a House Congressional charges. Mr. armed services investigating Macomber said that the pro-subcommittee, headed by Rep. motion list had been held up representative Edward F. Hébert until Mr. May's case could be Democrat of Louisiana, pub- investigated.

Mr. Macomber disclosed that lished a report on Mylai cen- suring Mr. May, among others, Mr. May had voluntarily sub- for "concerted action among mitted to a lie-detector test— military and State Department carried out here a few weeks ago for the State Department officers to suppress all evi- dence of the allegation and its by Scientific Lie Detector, Inc., of New York. Mr. May passed investigation."

The failure of the Mylai incident "to have been reported fully and promptly up through three different channels of being asked by letter to command in Vietnam," the committee found, "was as much a failure on the part of charges that many on the new the top State Department of- ficers involved as the top Army fied." **"Selected Out"**

that Mr. May had available John D. Hemenway, a Pentagon official who in 1969 was Intelligence Agency channels "selected out" of the Foreign and indicated skepticism over Service—dismissed for failure his assertion—backed by the to be promoted fast enough—State Department—that he was cited the State Department's unaware of the killings. Biographic Register to support

Mr. Stratton, a Navy veteran who has made four visits to Vietnam, was a member of the subcommittee investigating the Mylai incident. He has written he said, 160 are recommended all members of the Senate for promotions, appointments Foreign Relations Committee opposing Mr. May's promotion. Last Monday, he testified in closed session before the committee.

Two Generals Cited

"Generals Koster and Young were demoted, reprimanded and otherwise punished," Representative Stratton said in an interview. "I don't see why State Department officers who were there at the time and who did nothing to report the facts should now be promoted."

In the aftermath of the Mylai incident, Maj. Gen. Samuel W. Koster, who had commanded the American Division, the parent unit involved in the action, was demoted to brigadier general and censured. He lost the Distinguished Service Medal awarded him in Vietnam. He was also relieved as superintendent of West Point. His former deputy in Vietnam, Brig. Gen. George H. Young Jr., was also censured. He has since retired.

Of the 160, Mr. Hemenway said, 63 are being recommended for grades FS-3 and FS-4; 83 per cent of these, he said, are administrative—as distinct from political, economic or consular—officers; 86 per cent speak no foreign language, and 57 per cent have no college degree.